

REMARKS

The Office Action of May 19, 1999, has been carefully considered. It is noted that the claims 2-23 are rejected under 35 USC 112, first and second paragraphs and that claims 1, 4-10 are objected to for a formality issue.

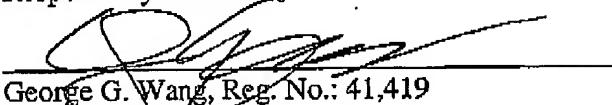
Concerning claims 1 and 4-10, it is respectfully submitted that the letter "c" was automatically attached to the claim numbering system when the application was filed electronically using the PTO's authoring software, and presumably is required for application filed electronically. In any event, this issue is eliminated in the updated claim set presented in this amendment.

Claim 3 is amended by inserting the definition for "related chemical entities" from the specification (paragraph [0069]). Thus no new matter is added by this insertion.

For various rejections under section 112 of claims 2-23, while not necessarily indicating an agreement with the Examiner's arguments, Applicants have amended the claims in light of the Examiner's analysis. It is believed that the claims as amended have overcome all the Examiner's 112 rejections.

In view of the current amendment, reconsideration and allowance of the application with pending claims are earnestly solicited. It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with this filing; however, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. **18-1982**.

Respectfully submitted,



George G. Wang, Reg. No.: 41,419  
Attorney for Applicant

Aventis Pharmaceuticals Inc.  
Patent Department  
Route #202-206 / P.O. Box 6800  
Bridgewater, NJ 08807-0800  
Telephone (908) 231-2843  
Telefax (908) 231-2626